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## VIRGINIA.

**Births and Deaths—Registration of—Registrars—Fees.** (Chap. 83, Act Mar. 13, 1914.)

1. That the sections 2, 4, and 19 of an act entitled an act to provide for the immediate registration of all births and deaths throughout the State of Virginia, by means of certificates of births and deaths, and burial or removal permits; to require prompt returns to the bureau of vital statistics at the capitol of the State, as required to be established by the State board of health; to insure the thorough organization and efficiency of the registration of vital statistics throughout the State; to provide certain penalties; to repeal all acts and parts of acts in conflict herewith, approved March 12, 1912,<sup>1</sup> be, and the same are hereby, amended and reenacted so as to read as follows:

"SEC. 2. That the State board of health shall have general supervision over the bureau of vital statistics, which is hereby authorized to be established by said board, and which shall be under the immediate direction of the State registrar of vital statistics, whom the State board of health shall appoint. Salary of the registrar of vital statistics shall be fixed by the State board of health from the day of his entering upon the discharge of the duties of his office. The State board of health shall provide suitable apartments for the bureau of vital statistics at Richmond, which shall be properly equipped with fireproof vaults and filing cases, for the permanent and safe preservation of all records made and returned under this act."

"SEC. 4. That in cities and towns the principal executive officer of the local board of health shall be the local registrar of vital statistics, and that in magisterial districts justices of the peace shall be local registrars of vital statistics for such portions of the districts as the State registrar shall designate: *Provided, however,* That if any justice of the peace refuses to act as local registrar, or where there is no acting justice of the peace, that, in such event, the State registrar shall appoint a suitable and proper person to be the local registrar for such district, or portion of such district as said registrar may designate. Any local registrar who fails or neglects to discharge efficiently the duties of his office, as laid down in this act, or who fails to make prompt and complete returns of births and deaths, as required thereby, shall be therewith removed from his office of registrar by the State registrar, and his successor appointed in addition to any further penalties that may be imposed under other sections of this act for failure or neglect to perform his duty."

"SEC. 19. That each local registrar shall be paid the sum of 25 cents for each birth certificate and each death certificate properly made out and registered with him, correctly recorded and promptly returned by him to the State registrar, as required by this act, and in case no births or deaths were registered during any month, the local registrar shall be entitled to be paid the sum of 25 cents for a report to that effect, but only if properly made in accordance with this act.

"All amounts payable to a registrar under the provisions of this section shall be paid by the treasurer of the city, town, or county in which the registration district is located, upon certification by the State registrar. And the State registrar shall annually certify to the treasurers of the several cities, towns, and counties the number of births and deaths properly registered, with the names of the local registrars and the amounts due each at the rate fixed herein: *Provided,* That the council of any city may by ordinance, in lieu of fees, provide for the compensation of the local registrar for such city by salary: *Provided further,* That the State registrar shall make no certification of fees due until a receipt from the county clerk for the record books of the year shall have been received by him from the local registrar: *And provided further,* That the fees or salaries now paid the principal executive officer of the local board of health of any city or town, who shall become the local registrar of such city or town under the provisions of this act, may be, in lieu of all compensation or fees as herein provided: *Provided, however,* Payment may be made by fees as in the counties."

<sup>1</sup> Public Health Reports, Jan. 31, 1913, p. 233.